

§ 21.7624

38 CFR Ch. I (7–1–03 Edition)

(iii) Any other type of course which VA determines to be avocational or recreational.

(3) To overcome a presumption that a course is avocational or recreational in character, the reservist must establish that the course will be of bona fide use in the pursuit of his or her present or contemplated business or occupation.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16136(b), 38 U.S.C. 3473(d); Pub. L. 98–525)

(e) *Mitigating circumstances.* The reservist is not entitled to receive payment of educational assistance from VA for a course from which the reservist withdraws or receives a nonpunitive grade which is not used in computing the requirements for graduation unless—

(1) There are mitigating circumstances, and

(2) The reservist submits the circumstances in writing to VA within 1 year from the date VA notifies the reservist that he or she must submit the mitigating circumstances.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16136(b), 38 U.S.C. 3680(a); Pub. L. 98–525)

(f) *Other courses.* (1) A reservist who is limited in the types of courses he or she may pursue, as provided in § 21.7540(b)(2) and (b)(3), may not receive any educational assistance for pursuit of any of the types of training listed in § 21.7540(b)(3).

(2) VA will not consider the hospital or field work phase of a nursing course, including a course leading to a degree in nursing, to be provided by an institution of higher learning unless—

(i) The hospital or fieldwork phase is an integral part of the course;

(ii) Completion of the hospital or fieldwork phase of the course is a prerequisite to the successful completion of the course;

(iii) The student remains enrolled in the institution of higher learning during the hospital or fieldwork phase of the course; and

(iv) The training is under the direction and supervision of the institution of higher learning.

(3) A reservist who is limited in the types of courses he or she may pursue, as provided in § 21.7540(b)(2) and (b)(3), may not receive educational assistance

for an enrollment in a course pursued after the reservist has completed the course of instruction required for the award of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent evidence of completion of study, unless the reservist is pursuing a course or courses leading to a graduate degree or graduate certificate. Such a reservist may receive educational assistance while pursuing a course or courses leading to a graduate degree or graduate certificate (subject to the restrictions in § 21.7620(d)). Equivalent evidence of completion of study may include, but is not limited to, a copy of the reservist's transcript showing that he or she has received passing grades in all courses needed to obtain a baccalaureate degree at the institution of higher learning which he or she has been attending.

(4) No reservist may receive payment of educational assistance from VA for:

(i) An audited course (see § 21.4252(i));

(ii) A new enrollment in a course during a period when approval has been suspended by a State approving agency or VA;

(iii) Pursuit of a course by a non-matriculated student except as provided in § 21.4252(l);

(iv) An enrollment in a course at an educational institution for which the reservist is an official of such institution authorized to sign certificates of enrollment under 10 U.S.C. chapter 1606;

(v) A new enrollment in a course which does not meet the veteran-non-veteran ratio requirement as computed under § 21.4201;

(vi) Except as provided in § 21.7620(c), an enrollment in a nonaccredited independent study course; or

(vii) An enrollment in a course offered under contract for which VA approval is prohibited by § 21.4252(m).

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16131(c), 16136(b); 38 U.S.C. 3672(a), 3676, 3680(a), 3680A(f), 3680A(g); § 642, Public Law 101–189, 103 Stat. 1458)

[53 FR 34740, Sept. 8, 1988, as amended at 61 FR 20729, May 8, 1996; 61 FR 29304, June 10, 1996; 62 FR 55762, Oct. 28, 1997; 65 FR 81743, Dec. 27, 2000]

§ 21.7624 Overcharges and restrictions on enrollments.

(a) *Overcharges.* VA may disapprove an educational institution for further

Department of Veterans Affairs

§21.7631

enrollments when the educational institution charges or receives from a reservist tuition and fees that exceed the established charges which the educational institution requires from similarly circumstanced nonreservists enrolled in the same course.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2136; 38 U.S.C. 3690; sec. 705(a)(1), Pub. L. 98-525, 98 Stat. 2565, 2567; secs. 642 (c), (d), 645(a)(1), Pub. L. 101-189, 103 Stat. 1457-1458)

(b) *Restriction on enrollments.* The provisions of §21.4210(b) apply to any determination by VA as to whether to impose restrictions on approval of enrollments and whether to discontinue payments to reservists already enrolled at an educational institution.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2136; 38 U.S.C. 3690(b); sec. 705(a)(1), Pub. L. 98-525, 98 Stat. 2565, 2567; secs. 642 (c), (d), 645(a)(1), Pub. L. 101-189, 103 Stat. 1457-1458)

[61 FR 29304, June 10, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 35837, July 1, 1998]

PAYMENTS—EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

§21.7630 Educational assistance.

VA will pay educational assistance pursuant to 10 U.S.C. chapter 1606 to an eligible reservist while he or she is pursuing approved courses in a program of education at the rates specified in §21.7636 and §21.7639.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16131(b); Pub. L. 98-525)

[53 FR 34740, Sept. 8, 1988, as amended at 61 FR 20729, May 8, 1996]

§21.7631 Commencing dates.

VA will determine the commencing date of an award or increased award of educational assistance under this section. When more than one paragraph in this section applies, VA will award educational assistance using the latest of the applicable commencing dates.

(a) *Entrance or reentrance including change of program or educational institution.* When an eligible reservist enters or reenters into training (including a reentrance following a change of program or educational institution), the commencing date of his or her award of educational assistance will be determined as follows:

(1) If the award is the first award of educational assistance for the program of education the reservist is pursuing, the commencing date of the award of educational assistance is the latest of:

(i) The date the educational institution certifies under paragraph (b) or (c) of this section;

(ii) One year before the date of claim as determined by §21.1029(b);

(iii) The effective date of the approval of the course, or one year before the date VA receives the approval notice whichever is later; or

(2) If the award is the second or subsequent award of educational assistance for the program of education the reservist is pursuing, the effective date of the award of educational assistance is the later of—

(i) The date the educational institution certifies under paragraph (b) or (c) of this section; or

(ii) The effective date of the approval of the course, or one year before the date VA receives the approval notice, whichever is later.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16136(b); 38 U.S.C. 3672, 5103)

(b) *Certification by educational institution—course or subject leads to a standard college degree.* (1) When a student enrolls in a course offered by independent study, the commencing date of the award or increased award of educational assistance will be the date the student began pursuit of the course according to the regularly established practices of the educational institution.

(2) When a student enrolls in a resident course or subject, the commencing date of the award will be the date of reporting provided that—

(i) The published standards of the school require the student to register before reporting,

(ii) The published standards of the school require the student to report no more than 14 days before the first scheduled date of classes for the term, quarter or semester for which the student has registered, and

(iii) The first scheduled class for the course or subject in which the student is enrolled begins during the calendar week when, according to the school's